

THE PROMISE

Jesus is our Prophet
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What is Advent?

- Advent is a season for remembering and rejoicing, watching and waiting, and a time to reflect upon the promises of God fulfilled in the coming of Christ Jesus.

a. What, if any, traditions or memories do you have regarding the Advent Season?

As the ultimate Prophet, Jesus reveals most clearly:

- God's character.
- God's redemptive purposes.
- God's will for the Church to become truly human.
- Read Matthew 21:10-13.
- As Christ-followers, we're to show the world what God intended for humanity before the fall and what it will be like in the New Heavens and New Earth.

a. Take a few minutes to discuss God's character revealed in Christ.

b. What was the main role of a prophet in the Bible? How are we also prophets?

P.R.O.P.H.E.T.**Participate in Christ.**

- Read Romans 6:4.
- Pastor Derwin talked about our "union life" with Christ...meaning Jesus wants to live in and through us.

a. Why is this truth so important?

b. How does it change our view of what it means to be a follower of Jesus and our mission here on earth?

Rescued to restore our humanity.

- Read Romans 6:5-7; Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 2:4-6.

a. When we come to Christ and become a Christ-follower, what do these Scriptures say about our identity and position in Christ?

b. Why is this so important to you and me?

c. How does this identity change us and empower us?

Obedience is an opportunity to become human. Sin is a missed opportunity to grow in our humanity.

- Read Romans 6:10-11.
- Sin takes us from His original plan. Obedience takes us towards His original plan.
 - a. What was God’s original plan for His creation?
 - b. How does this play into the idea of “obedience is human?”
- Read Romans 7:15-24 and 25; Romans 8:5; 2 Corinthians 5:14-15.
 - c. Do we have the power to obey in our own strength? Why? Because it’s not in our power that we can say “no” to sin. So, how do we grow in our obedience? On Whom do we keep our eyes focused?
 - d. What’s important to remember is—we will sin until glory. So, it’s what we do when we sin that is important...run to Jesus—not from Jesus. His mercies are new every day.

Prisoner no more.

- Read Romans 6:8-9; Isaiah 61:1; Luke 4:16-19.
 - a. How does Isaiah 61:1 point to Christ?
 - b. How does Jesus connect Isaiah 61 to Himself?
- Read Ephesians 6:6; Colossians 3:24; 1 Peter 2:16.
 - c. We *were prisoners* to what? Now we are *slaves* to whom?
 - d. How does the Exodus story and the idea of “no longer a prisoner” connect to the finished work of Christ?

Holy Spirit indwelt.

- Read Romans 8:14-15.
 - a. Why do you think “Fear not” appears 70+ times in the Bible? Fear asks, “Am I accepted?” “Will He reject me?” or “Am I okay with God?”
 - b. How does being led by God’s Spirit reinforce our position in Christ and conquer our fear?
 - c. How does overcoming fear empower us to serve others?

Example for others.

- Read Ephesians 5:8-11.
 - a. How does this truth tie into the Vision of Transformation Church?
 - b. The Vision of Transformation Church is to be a multiethnic, multigenerational, mission-shaped community that loves God completely (Upward), ourselves correctly (Inward), and our neighbors compassionately (Outward).

Turn to the Word of God.

- Read Colossians 3:16.
- We can turn to the Word of God, which is Christ Jesus, and meditate on what He says.
 - a. How does this truth help us when we “feel” enslaved or “feel” like an orphan or “feel” like sin rules over us?

Soul-tattoo:

- Follow our “Advent Schedule” on the TC App, December 2 - 25.
- Light a candle in your home tonight.

Recommended Resource: *Faith Life Study Bible*